

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of assisting in identifying an article, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the article with a tag at a time of manufacture of the article, the tag having information associated with the article;

presenting the tag to a wearable tag reader ~~a tag associated with an article;~~

communicating the information held in ~~of~~ said tag to the tag reader; and

generating an output signal that is dependent on the information communicated from the tag to the tag reader, wherein said output signal facilitates identification of the article with which the tag is associated by virtue of said association being user definable and established prior to said step of communicating.

2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said wearable tag reader is wearable on at least one of a persons finger, a hand, a forearm, and a foot or other extremity of the body.

3. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 and further comprising the step of a user re-programming said tag prior to said step of communicating.

4. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said information held in ~~of~~ the tag includes tag identity information.

5. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said information held in ~~of~~ the tag includes data which describes a property of the article with which the tag is associated.

6. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said generated output signal is in the form of at least one of a tactile signal, an audible signal,

speech and a visual signal ~~or other user-decipherable information.~~

7. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said tag is a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

8. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 and further comprising the step of a user connecting ~~providing~~ said tag to said article.

9. (previously presented) An article provided with a tag, said tag being suitable for use in a method of assisting in identifying an article in accordance with claim 1.

10. (previously presented) A process comprising the step of affixing a tag to an article, said tag being suitable for use in a method of assisting in identifying an article in accordance with claim 1.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus for assisting in identifying an article, said apparatus comprising:

a wearable tag reader for reading information held in a tag associated with an article, the reading being performed when the wearable tag reader is presented to the tag, and

an output signal generating means coupled to said tag reader for generating an output signal that is a tactile signal and is dependent on the information communicated during reading from a tag presented to the reader, wherein said output signal facilitates identification of the article with which the tag is associated by virtue of said association being user definable and established prior to the tag reading.

12. (currently amended) ~~A method, article provided with a tag or apparatus as described herein, with reference to or as illustrated in any one or more of the accompanying drawings~~ The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a user interface that allows a user to designate one of a plurality of output signals for the information communicated during reading.

13. (new) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the information is provided to the tag at a time of manufacture of the article.
14. (new) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a text-to-speech converter, wherein the information provided to the tag reader is text data, and wherein the text-to-speech converter provides a speech signal based on the text data at the time of reading the information.
15. (new) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the wearable tag reader is a ring that is wearable on the user's finger.
16. (new) A method for identifying an article, said method comprising:
 - storing information associated with the article in a tag connected to the article;
 - reading the information in the tag when a wearable tag reader is in proximity to the article;
 - designating one of a plurality of output signals of the wearable tag reader for the information communicated during the reading, the designating being performed by the wearer of the wearable tag reader; and
 - generating an output signal dependent on the information communicated during the reading and the designating of the one of the plurality of output signals, wherein said output signal facilitates identification of the article with which the tag is associated based on said association being user definable and established prior to the tag reading.
17. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the output signal is a tactile signal.
18. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the storing of information in the tag is at a time of manufacture of the article.
19. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the information provided to the tag reader is text data, and wherein a speech signal based on the text data is provided at the time of reading the information.

20. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the wearable tag reader is a ring that is wearable on the user's finger.